

**Second Sunday in Advent  
Our Lady of Lourdes • December 9, 2007**



**“Then the wolf shall  
be a guest of the  
lamb, with a little  
child to guide them.”**

Isaiah 11:6



## *Pastoral Team*

**Rev. Michael A. Vetrano**  
Pastor

*Welcome to our Parish Family! New Parishioners are cordially invited to register as members of our parish family. Please call or visit our Parish Office.*

### **Parish Office**

661-3224

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 7:30 PM

Saturday: 9 AM - 3 PM

Sunday: 9 AM - 2 PM

email: [ParishOffice@ollchurch.org](mailto:ParishOffice@ollchurch.org)

fax: 661-7143

website: [www.ollchurch.org](http://www.ollchurch.org)

### **Our Lady of Lourdes School**

587-7200

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - 3 PM

email: [info@ollschool.org](mailto:info@ollschool.org)

### **Religious Education Office**

661-5440

Monday-Friday: 9 AM - Noon

1 PM - 5 PM

7 PM - 9 PM

email: [ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org](mailto:ReligiousEd@ollchurch.org)

### **Parish Outreach Office**

661-9262

Monday-Friday: 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM

### **S.A.G.E.**

661-3224

(Senior Advocates for Growth  
and Enrichment)

email: [Sage@ollchurch.org](mailto:Sage@ollchurch.org)

### **Rev. Stanislaus Chukwube**

Associate Pastor

### **Rev. Robert Scheckenback**

Associate Pastor

### **Deacon John DeGuardi**

### **Deacon Jack Meehan**

Coordinator of Stewardship

### **Deacon John Teufel**

### **Sr. Margaret Bickar**

Senior Ministry-SAGE

### **Sr. Nancy Campkin**

Director of Religious Education

### **Jennifer Gallagher**

Director of Youth Services

### **Carol M. Goetz**

Parish Music Director

### **Louise Jane Krol**

School Principal

### **Sr. Diane Liona**

Director of Religious Education

### **Mary McMahon**

Director of Parish Social Ministry

### **Vita Scorcio**

Ministry Spiritual Director

### **John Sureau**

Coordinator of Worship

### **Sr. Betty Toohig**

Senior Ministry-SAGE

### **Anthony Trombino**

Business Manager

## *Pastoral Council*

Salomon Acosta

Stacie Baltrusitis

Jane Desthers

Stephen Frodell

William Hurley

Anne Kerrigan

Maria Lucie (*co-chair*)

Deacon Jack Meehan

Vita Scorcio

Doreen Spiller

Mary Steck

Fr. Mike Vetrano

Marie Yuliano (*co-chair*)

## *Parish Staff*

### **Barbara Catusco**

Religious Education Office

### **Mary Anne Lettieri**

Parish Office

### **Debbie Meyer**

Bulletin/Parish Office

### **Rosemary Multer**

School Office

### **Rex Muro**

Organist

### **Rita Spera**

Religious Education Office

### **Lori Walsh**

Parish Office

## *Mission Statement*

*As stewards of all that God has given us, the Parish Family of Our Lady of Lourdes serves and ministers to all who come to this place. Regardless of a person's history, ethnicity, gender, orientation, age or race, we commit ourselves to open wide the doors of our Parish to provide a place of welcome and hospitality.*

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## *Vision...*

*so that all may know that they are a vital part of the Body of Christ, we further recommit and challenge ourselves to:*

***Live** out our Baptismal call passionately by caring for all of God's people with justice.*

***Grow** in an understanding of God's role in each of our lives.*

***Respond** to the Gospel in a radical way, inviting and inspiring all to form the Kingdom of God in every moment of life.*

***Acknowledge** we are not complete without the willingness to grow, discern and discover the Spirit who moves and guides us.*

*Our Lady  
of Lourdes*

455 Hunter Avenue  
West Islip, New York 11795



## **The Great Christmas Card Contest**

Send our parish a homemade or family picture Christmas card. Prizes will be awarded for the most beautiful card, the most spiritual card, the funniest card, and the most unusual card. All entries will be displayed in our all purpose room bulletin board.



## **Mass for Bereaved Parents**

**Saturday, December 15**

**OLL Church – 11 AM**

The holidays are often times of great celebration. But, for many, particularly those who have lost a child, the holidays are painfully hard. They are a reminder of our losses and a reminder of how our lives are perhaps a little less full. Whether you have lost a child in childhood or adulthood, to stillbirth or miscarriage, this Mass will be celebrated to bring you God's peace and consolation.

We invite all who have lost a child to come and gather together for this special Mass on **Saturday, December 15 at 11 AM**. Mass will be followed by a luncheon. Please feel free to invite family or friends with you. For more information, or to let us know you will be able to attend, please call the Parish Office at 661.3224.

Let's pray that through prayer and coming together, the challenges of the holidays can become a little lighter and that we may be strengthened by God's love and presence. If you're interested in helping with this celebration, please contact John Sureau at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org).



*Our Lady of Lourdes Sixth Annual  
Family Christmas Pageant*

*Friday, December 21*

*7 PM in the Church*

*What better way to prepare for Christmas  
than to share the Christmas story with our children!*

*We invite our entire parish family to come and  
share this special evening with us.*

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We'd like to involve many members of our parish community, especially all parish children!

It's easy...there are only two short practices and a dress rehearsal.

*There's something for all ages:*

**Children**

Pre-K through Grade 3

Angels and Shepherds

Grades 4 through 6

Three Kings and the Royal Servants; and Dancers

Grades 7 through 12

We need lots of help—musicians, singers, organizers and assistant directors!

If you can help with our pageant, please call Jennifer Gallagher at 661.3224 or email [jengallagher@ollchurch.org](mailto:jengallagher@ollchurch.org).

**Adults**

We need help with costumes and supervision of the “angels and shepherds.” If you can help with any of these areas, please call Jennifer at 661.3224, or email [JenGallagher@ollchurch.org](mailto:JenGallagher@ollchurch.org).

**Pageant Practices for All**

Thursday, December 13 from 6:30 PM until 7:15 PM in the Church

Thursday, December 20 Dress Rehearsal 6:30 PM until 7:30 PM in the Church

## Living Liturgy

The Liturgy at OLL requires so many of us to take a more active role. Over the past months, we've seen twenty five parishioners join one or more of our liturgical ministries!

### Servers

Our parish is blessed to welcome the following young women and men as altar servers:

*Kenny Cardali, Daniel Cunningham, Kiernan Delaney, Natalie Garcia, Qujan Garcia, Tejore Garcia, Kelly Hague, George Khoury, Joseph Christian V. La Carrubba, Dylan McCarty, Kaylee McCarty, Frank Pannachione, Christian Prate, John Tozzi, Mark Vandenburg, Matthew Vandenburg.*

Special thanks to *John Pannachione* and *Joseph Goldin* who actively trained and prepared these young women and men for this important ministry!

### Lectors

Proclaiming the Word of God is no easy task. It takes presence, preparation and commitment. We welcome Martha Carlin, Matthew Carlin, Angela LaGiglia, Kayla Hunter, and Christine Rolston who have become Ministers of the Word in the past few months.

### Extraordinary Ministers

Our parish welcomes Frank McLoughlin and Ed Pinter as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. They will serve at our parish Masses and minister communion to the Sick.

If you're interested in being part of any of these ministries, just call John Sureau at the Parish Office at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org).



## Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

### What's it all about?

**IF** you are an adult **AND**

... you were never Baptized

... you were Baptized in another faith and would like to become a baptized Catholic

... you never received Holy Communion (Eucharist)

... you never received your Confirmation

**IF** you are an adult **and** one or all of the circumstances above apply to you

**IF** you feel you would like to become a Baptized Catholic or become more fully initiated into your Catholic faith,

please contact John Sureau, S. Nancy or Fr. Stan at the Parish Office. You can call 661-3224, option #1, and we would be happy to help you!



# Preparing for Advent

This beautiful season of anticipation calls us to prepare well for the coming of Christ – not only at Christmas but in our own hearts. There is something for everyone this Advent – so please be sure to visit our parish web site, read the bulletin, listen to our announcements and make some time for you this Advent season!

The holy season of Advent calls us to prepare well – not for the feast of Christmas – but for the presence of Christ in our hearts. Here are some of the beautiful traditions and changes you'll see beginning today.

### **The Advent Wreath**

At all of our liturgies, we will bless, light and raise the Advent wreath. Listen carefully to the blessing and what it calls for from each of us. More than a symbol that is raised before us, may it be a reminder of a season of preparation, hope and transformation!

### **The Gospel of Matthew**

We begin using the readings from Year A, with our focus on the Gospel of Matthew. The Gospel community of Matthew wrote for Jewish Christians, among others. In these readings, we'll hear of our tremendous connection and link with our Jewish sisters and brothers.

### **Prelude**

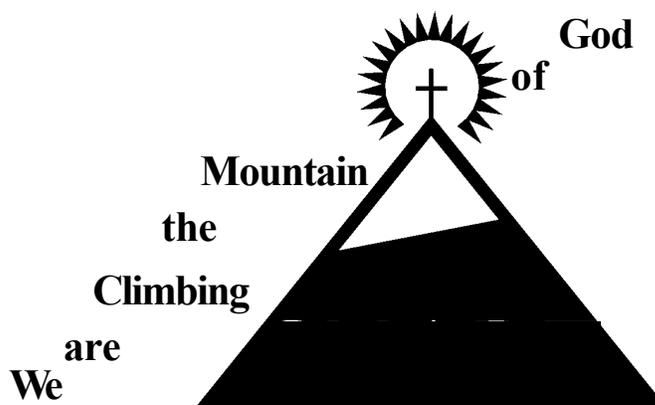
Our Music Ministry will begin our prayer before Mass with a prelude of music. This hymn, we hope, will focus and remind us of what this season is truly about!

## **Special Masses in Advent**

### **“The Six” -**

#### **6 PM in the Church**

This Advent – we're climbing the “Mountain of God” . . . getting higher and higher as Christmas approaches! What do we need to do to climb that mountain?



**December 9** – we'll look at how we can get some PEACE! -We'll have a special video presentation as part of the Liturgy . . . that provides us with some needed reminders about peace with our families, friends, neighbors and world!

On **December 16**, we'll have a special healing service.

On **December 23** - a faith meditation! More to come . . . and hopefully you will too!

## Support Groups

### **Alcoholics Anonymous:**

Monday and Tuesday at  
8 PM and Saturday at 2PM  
and 7 PM in Lourdes Hall-  
convent lower level.

### **ALANON:**

Each Wednesday at  
10 AM in Lourdes Hall-  
convent lower level.

### **Daily Mass**

8 AM

### **Weekend Masses**

**Saturday:** 5 PM

**Sunday:** 8 AM, 9:30 AM,  
11 AM, 12:30 PM and 6 PM

### **Reconciliation**

**Saturday:** 4 PM - 4:45 PM

### **Rosary/Novena**

#### **Rosary:**

Daily after 8 AM Mass

#### **Miraculous Medal Novena:**

Monday after 8 AM Mass

#### **Anointing of the Sick**

Throughout the liturgical year.

If needed sooner, please call the Parish Office.

#### **Baptism**

Please contact the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

#### **Marriage**

Arranged at least six months in advance, please call the Parish Office.

#### **Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults(RCIA):**

A process to be embraced by the Catholic Church. For non-Catholics and for Catholics who have never received formal religious education. If interested, please call the Parish Office.



## *Rest In Peace*

*Tonietta Drozd* died on November 26 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was November 29. We extend our prayers to her husband Edward, daughters, sons-in-law and granddaughters.

*Joseph Anthony Doldo* died on November 28 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was December 1. We extend our prayers to his wife Clara, children, grandchildren and sister.

*Ralph Peter Amodio* died on November 29 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was December 3. We extend our prayers to his children, grandchildren and siblings.

*Mary R. Saraceno* died on November 29 and celebration of the Mass of Christian Burial was December 3. We extend our prayers to her children, grandchildren, great-grandchild and siblings.

## Mass Schedule

### Monday, December 10

8:00 AM George F. Bukowski

### Tuesday, December 11

*St. Damasus I, pope*

8:00 AM Michael Sanfilippo, Jr.

### Wednesday, December 12

*Our Lady of Guadalupe*

8:00 AM Joseph A. Santangelo

### Thursday, December 13

*St. Lucy, virgin, martyr*

8:00 AM Frederick Ansman

### Friday, December 14

*St. John of the Cross, priest, doctor*

8:00 AM James M. Quinn

### Saturday, December 15

8:00 AM Victor Gregorio, Nancy McGrath, Anna Lettieri,  
Richard Hurtibise, Tonietta Drozd, Angelina Nassaur,  
Gigi DePasquale

5:00 PM Mary & Frank Sniadowski  
*Fr. Stan Chukwube*

### Sunday, December 16

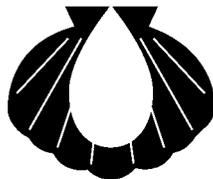
8:00 AM William Small  
*Fr. Ambrose Cabildo*

9:30 AM Loreto & Ben Fantauzzi  
*Fr. Mike Vetrano*

11:00 AM Frank Petrone  
*Fr. Stan Chukwube*

12:30 PM Francisco, Felizberta, Ramon & Ruperto Dimaculangan  
and Asuncion Castro  
*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*

6:00 PM People of the Parish, Peter Reehil, Alex Longo, Loreto Longo,  
Edward John Piccirelli, Mamie & Michael Raia, Rose & Dominick Cocco,  
Teresa & Frank Marsala, Mary Tortorella, Irma Leschitz, Bernard Winters  
*Fr. Bob Scheckenback*



## Baptisms

*Ryan Joseph Flynn*  
Francis and Cathleen  
*Emmett Theodore Boxer*  
Steven and Anne  
*Teagan Reese McGuire*  
Michael and Sara  
*James Christian Farrell*  
James and Nancy  
*Naomi Rae Kolk*  
Jennifer  
*Vivian LiJia Gallagher*  
Thomas and Danielle

## Upcoming Marriages

*Terrianne Procita* and  
*Joseph Messina*, both OLL



## **Simbang Gabi**

Good Samaritan Prayer Group of Long Island in coordination with Our Lady of Lourdes Church presents **Simbang Gabi** (a *Philippine Christmas Tradition*) on **Saturday, December 22 at 7 PM in the Church.**

An evening full of Christmas Spirit! Mass will be followed by Christmas serenade and a fellowship-serving our finest Philippine delicacies. For more details, please contact Pete and Carlita DeRoxas at 661.0232 or email to [goodsamofli@gmail.com](mailto:goodsamofli@gmail.com).

*Save the date....*

### **Advent Day of Reconciliation**

**Monday, December 17**

**3 PM – 9 PM**

Our parish priests will be available to hear individual confessions. The Advent season brings us promises of transformation and renewal. This beautiful sacrament is one way this can happen. Be open to the healing forgiveness of Reconciliation!

### **Saint Bernard League**

(Saint Bernards are known for bringing people to safety in hazardous weather conditions!) If you're in need of help when it snows, members of our parish community will come to your home and shovel you out! If you think you can use this help, call the Parish Office at 661.3224 or e-mail to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org) today so we can begin to match people up now. PLEASE: Sign up again this year even if you signed up last year.

#### ***We also need Saint Bernards...***

Can you and/or your family shovel, snow blow or clear out another family or two in need within our parish community? We'd love to have all families matched up before the first snow of the season (assuming it hasn't happened yet!) If you can help with this call the Parish Office at 661.3224, x. 135 or e-mail to [jsureau@ollchurch.org](mailto:jsureau@ollchurch.org).

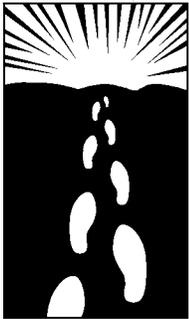
This is a great way to help those in need (do some tremendous community service!)



## OLL Pilgrimage to Italy

Take this opportunity to plan to journey to Italy with our pastor, Fr. Mike and our parish family of Our Lady Lourdes. We will be visiting the cities of Rome, Florence, Assisi and Milan. Imagine yourself in Rome at the Vatican in St. Peter's Basilica, walking through the streets of Florence, the center of the Renaissance and the heart of Tuscany and walking in the footsteps of St. Francis in Assisi and being in the presence of Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the Last Supper. This wonderful ten day trip is planned for October 2008. Our departure date, a direct flight from NY to Milan is scheduled for October 16, 2008 and return direct flight from Rome to NY on October 25, 2008.

For additional information, please plan on attending the **meeting with Deacon John DeGuardi on Tuesday, December 11 at 7:30 PM in Room 16 of OLL School.** (It is important that you express your interest at this first meeting. The next meeting will be during the last week of January 2008.)



## Spiritual Direction

*...for those who want the companionship of a director to journey with them in finding God's desire for them in their daily life.*

### ***What is Spiritual Direction?***

Spiritual Direction is a specialized ministry in the Church. It is a graced way of serving another believer, helping the other to grow in intimacy with God and to live out the consequences of this intimacy.

### ***Why would I want a Spiritual Director?***

The desire for a Spiritual Director comes when one wants to develop a deeper relationship with God, when one's search for God seems to be at a crossroad, or when one wants to explore new methods of prayer, or prayer becomes difficult.

### ***What happens in Spiritual Direction?***

The person coming for Spiritual Direction should try to describe to the director one's experiences in their life of faith, hope and love.

### ***What can I expect?***

The director helps you to be more aware of who God is for you, to notice God's movement in the events of your life, and in your prayer, to be able to talk about what you are experiencing, to be attentive to God's invitations, urgings, and confirmations and to recognize resistances and road-blocks. The director is not judgmental, but assists the directee to objectify his/her experience.

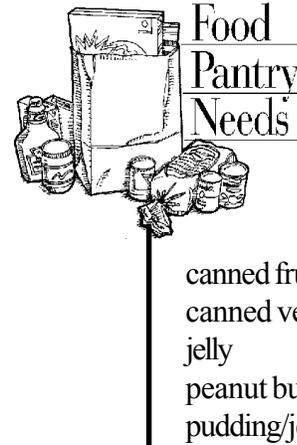
If you have any questions, or you would like to make arrangements to meet with a Spiritual Director, please call Deacon John DeGuardi at the Parish Office at 661.3224.

(It is recommended that you make a three month commitment of one meeting per month.)

## Parish Outreach

### Outreach Office Hours

Monday through Friday from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM.  
For information/assistance call 661.9262.



*Our pantry is running low on the following items...*  
cereal, coffee, soup, and tea.

## Donations

Outreach has received several donations  
in memory of Florence Denig and Anna Lettieri.

Outreach has received donations in memory of Anna Lettieri and Sean Kennedy.

## Tai Chi

In September, Outreach started offering Tai Chi classes each Wednesday from Noon-1PM in the Parish Center. The offering for Tai Chi is a free-will donation. There has been a consistent turn-out each week, and the response from participants has been positive.

Starting in January, we will be adding a meditation period to the end of each class. If you are interested in either the Tai Chi class or the meditation time-please join us. Meditation will start Wednesday, January 9 at approximately 1 PM. Meditation sessions will be approximately twenty minutes.

We ask that if you participate only in the meditation session-to please remove your shoes before entering the Parish Center and to enter quietly.

## MICAH:A Campaign to End LI Poverty

*(Mobilized Interfaith Coalition Against Hunger)*

Poverty in the United States (and on Long Island) is a wound in the soul of our country (and our region).

A Moral Call to Create Affordable Housing

“The importance of stable housing to the health and well being of a family cannot be overstated. Children living in owned or affordable rented homes consistently fare better...than their precariously housed peers. The conditions imposed by poverty and homelessness unsettle families and place children at risk for a multitude of unhealthy outcomes. In response to America’s affordable housing crisis, we advocate for Federal housing policies that...create a seamless continuum of housing options for families and individuals.

To learn more about the MICAH campaign, contact Dr. Richard Koubek at Catholic Charities at [Koubek.richard@catholiccharities.cc](mailto:Koubek.richard@catholiccharities.cc)



*" O Come, O Come Emmanuel,  
 And ransom captive Israel  
 Who mourns in lonely exile here.  
 Until the Son of God appear.  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 Will come to thee O Israel!"*

The second Sunday of Advent already!

It seems that it was only yesterday when Outreach was asking for school supplies! At one point, in the blur of the seasons-we marked Halloween and All Saints Day...celebrated a fantastic fundraiser, the Football Wedding.... collected food and distributed Thanksgiving dinners to over 100 families!

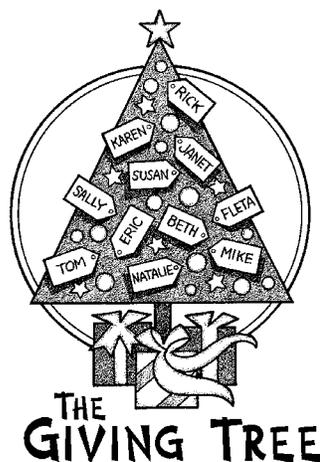
November 19 was my first experience of the Thanksgiving Food Distribution. I wish that everyone who contributed even one can of food-could have been with us on November 19! The day was marked by so many moments of Grace-if egos can step aside, in works of goodness-we can be such vehicles of Grace for each other. Many tears were shed on November 19-some of gratitude and some of pain. On a day set aside to give thanks, sometimes one's emptiness, neediness, and poverty can seem magnified.

Thank you to all our generous benefactors-who contributed food, scrip and money so that other families could experience light in their darkness. It is my prayer that all who gave so selflessly will be blessed.

*-Mary McMahan  
 Director of Parish Social Ministry*

## The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is set up and tickets are in place! Each ornament on our Parish Giving Tree is a gift tag that represents something needed by a family in our parish.



Please take a Gift Ticket and help brighten someone's Christmas-help us to meet these needs by taking a tag from our tree and returning a gift by December 16. You can return your unwrapped gift under the tree. Please remember to include the Gift Ticket with the gift. You may include wrapping paper and bows if you wish.

You may also make a financial gift to Parish Outreach and they will use it to purchase a gift or to help a family who needs financial support. If your gift is a Gift Card-or you wish to donate Gift Cards for food-please bring these directly to the Outreach Office or to the Parish Office.

## Members in the Military

We ask that you pray especially for those in our parish that are on active duty in the Middle East conflict.

They are:



**Lorenzo Bacchi**-*US Marines*  
**Bryan R. Dempsey**-*US Marines*  
**Jeremy deRoxas**-*US Air Force*  
**Frederick Wm. Ellis**-*US Army*  
**James J. Ferrara**-*US Marines*  
**John Finn**-*US Army*  
**Christopher Florca**-*US Marines*  
**Donnie Frank**-*US Marines*  
**Armand J. LeComte**-*US Marines*  
**Anthony Mannino**-*US Marines*  
**Peter Provenzano**-*US Army*

...and remember those of our parish family that are in the armed services, listed in our Parish Book of Intentions.

Our whole parish family rejoices with the Mallimo Family in gratitude for the safe return of their son from active duty. **Michael Mallimo** -*US Army* has returned to the United States safe and sound from his second tour of duty. Thank you, Michael, for your generous service to our country! The Mallimo Family would like to thank Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Family for all of their prayers.

## Update!



Walter Reed Army Medical Center officials want to remind those individuals who want to show their appreciation through mail to include packages, letters, and holiday cards addressed to 'Any Wounded Soldier' or 'A Recovering American Soldier' that Walter Reed cannot accept these packages.

In addition, the U.S. Postal Service is no longer accepting "Any Service Member" or "A Recovering American Soldier" letters or packages. Mail to "Any Service Member" that is deposited into a collection box will not be delivered.

Instead of sending an "Any Wounded Soldier" letter or package to Walter Reed, please consider making a donation to one of the more than 300 nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping our troops and their families listed on the "America Supports You" website, [www.americasupportsyou.mil](http://www.americasupportsyou.mil) Other organizations that offer means of showing your support for our troops or assist wounded service members and their families include: <http://www.usocares.org/> <http://www4.army.mil/ocpa/tooursoldiers/> or <http://www.redcross.org>



## Altar Society

Altar linens this week will be cared for by *Pat Wissing*.  
If you would like to help care for our altar needs, please  
call the Parish Office at 661.3224.



## Pastoral Care of Our Sick

Please call the Parish Office at 661.3224 to leave the names  
of parishioners who:

- are homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist
- are in Good Samaritan Hospital and would like to be visited  
by a member of our Pastoral Care Ministry.
- would like to receive the sacred anointing.

## Pray for Our Sick

Please remember to keep in your thoughts and prayers ...

*Stacie Baltrusitis, Deacon Dick Barry, Benedict Bellotti, Pat Bonavita,  
Thomas Brennan, Baby Drew Brust, Howard Campkin, Lynn Castellano,  
Regina Cranor, Joseph Cristallo, Karen DellaVecchia, Anita Denis, TJ Devlin,  
Josephine DiBenedetto, Daniel V. DiMonda, Joann Fasano, Joseph Ferrara,  
Jason Fisher, Samantha Hil, Adam Ippolito, Wade Kromhout, Evelyn Lang,  
Richard Lang, Nancy Letsch, Anthony Lombardo, Mike Lorento,  
Diego Marino, Rosemarie Marmo, Charles Matushefske, Michele McCann,  
Peter McCann, Sr., Joseph Menite, Bryan Monahan, Jimmy Murphy, Joseph Ortiz,  
Maria Pereira, Arthur Petrino, Baby Conner Pietras, Joe Radosti, Delphine Reynolds,  
Felix Rivera, Dorothy Schiavone, Derek Stahl, Dorothy Sullivan, Loretta Vitale*



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## Second Sunday of Advent

In ancient Israel, before the time of Christ, shofars were used for a variety of events. A shofar is a ram's or goat's horn flattened at the small end and used as a crude trumpet. Blasts from the shofar were used to assemble the elders of the synagogue or the whole congregation, to begin journeys. They were even used in times of war. They would be sounded at the beginning of celebrations, as well. Today, trumpets of silver and gold are used for occasions requiring great fanfare.

He is coming. In today's reading from Matthew, John the Baptist is a sort of shofar, or trumpet, announcing for all to hear the long-awaited coming of the Messiah. There is something wonderful in the fact that Christ's public ministry was not heralded by a band of angels bathed in brilliant white light, but by a man in a simple camel's hair garment who lived off the land. Jesus' road ahead would be difficult, and the announcement of his mission by such a man seems fitting.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that the kingdom of heaven belongs to the poor and lowly; in other words, to those who have accepted it with humble hearts (CCC 544). John the Baptist was able to answer his call to his passion, to be the one who was to foretell all that would hear of the coming of Jesus. This Advent season, ask yourself: Is your path straight?

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### Readings for the Week of December 9, 2007

<b>Sunday:</b>	Is 11:1-10/Rom 15:4-9/Mt 3:1-12
<b>Monday:</b>	Is 35:1-10/Lk 5:17-26
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Is 40:1-11/Mt 18:12-14
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
<b>Thursday:</b>	Is 41:13-20/Mt 11:11-15
<b>Friday:</b>	Is 48:17-19/Mt 11:16-19
<b>Saturday:</b>	Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
<b>Next Sunday:</b>	Is 35:1-6a, 10/Jas 5:7-10/Mt 11:2-11

## Financial Summary

### December 2, 2007

Weekly Collection	\$ 18,945.00
Weekly Budget	-\$ 21,000.00
+/- for the week	\$ (2,055.00)

*The estimated weekly collection needed to maintain and operate our parish buildings, ministries, programs and salaries is \$21,000.*

## Operation Holidays=Operation Success!

The Rosary Christian Mothers wish to thank our Parish Family for your support in making "Operation Holidays" a huge success! Through your generosity we were able to fill nine packing boxes to the brim with a variety of items which will be shipped out by the American Legion Babylon Post #94 at their expense. All monies collected to help defray shipping costs will be donated to Post #94 for this purpose.

We also extend a special note of appreciation to Mary McMahon and Parish Outreach for their generous donation of food and personal items.

The American Legion has assured us that all packages will be shipped to military personnel from Long Island.



## Blood Drive Thank You

Thanks and appreciation to all who donated blood at our OLL Blood Drive on November 9. Your effort and commitment has helped L.I. Blood Services to meet the daily demand for blood products. We had 58 donors registered and 55 pints were collected. The blood collected was separated into their components and distributed to patients in hospitals throughout the area.

There is no substitute for caring people who take the time to donate blood so that others may live.

## Jesus' Dysfunctional Family Tree

by Ron Rolheiser, OMI

The full story of how Jesus Christ came to be born includes elements that we do not easily imagine when we sing our Christmas hymns. Jesus' family tree and blood-line were far from perfect and this, according to the great biblical scholar, Raymond Brown, needs to be kept in mind whenever we are tempted to believe in Jesus but want to reject the church because of its imperfections, scandals, and bad history. Jesus may have been immaculately conceived, but there is much in his origins, as the gospels make clear, that's as un-immaculate as any contemporary church scandal.

For example, in giving us the origins of Jesus, the gospels point to as many sinners, liars, and schemers in his genetic and historical lineage as they do to saints, honest people, and men and women of faith.

We see, for example, in Jesus' genealogy a number of men who didn't exactly incarnate the love, justice, and purity of Jesus: Abraham unfairly banished Ishmael and his mother, Hagar, rationalizing that God favours some people over others; Jacob, by scheming and dishonesty, stole his brother Esau's birthright; and David, to whom Jesus explicitly connects himself, committed adultery and then had the husband of his mistress murdered to cover-up an unwanted pregnancy and in order to marry her.

And the women mentioned in Jesus background aren't much better. It's interesting to note, as Raymond Brown does, which women don't get mentioned in reference to Jesus' origins. The gospels don't mention Sarah, Rebekeh, or Rachel, all of whom were regarded as holy women. Whom do they mention?

They mention Tamar, a Canaanite woman, someone outside the Jewish faith, who seduces her father-in-law, Judah, so that she can have a child; Rahab, also a Canaanite woman, and an outsider, who is in fact a prostitute; Ruth, a Moabite woman who is also outside the official religion of the time; and Bathsheba, a Hittite woman, an outsider who commits adultery with David and then schemes to make sure one of her own offspring inherits the throne.

All of these women found themselves in a situation of marriage or pregnancy that was either strange or scandalous, yet each was an important divine instrument in preserving the religious heritage that gave us Jesus. It's no accident that the gospels link these women to Mary,

Jesus' mother, since she too found herself in a ritually taboo pregnancy and in a marital situation that was peculiar. And beyond these less-than-saintly characters in Jesus' lineage, we see as well that some of the institutions that shaped the Jewish faith were also less than saintly. Institutionalized religion back then suffered from many of the same problems it has today, including the corrupt use of power. Moreover, Israel itself (perhaps justifying the deed by referring to what Jacob had done to Esau) seized the land of Canaan from those who had a prior claim to it, claiming ownership by divine privilege.

Finally, and not insignificantly, we see too that the lineage that gave us Jesus built itself up not just upon the great and the talented, but equally upon the poor and the insignificant. In the list of names that makes up the ancestors of Jesus, we see some that are famous and others that can make no claim to specialness or significance. Jesus' human blood, scripture tells us, was produced equally by the great and the small, the talented and the talentless.

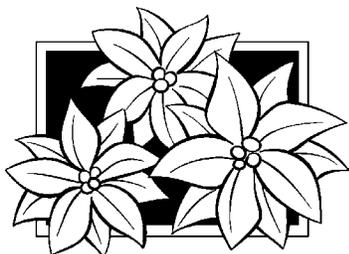
What's to be learned for all of this? Perhaps Raymond Brown captures it the best. What all this tells us, he says, is that God writes straight with crooked lines, that we shouldn't accept an overly-idealized Jesus Christ, and that our own lives, even if they are marked by weakness and insignificance, are important too in continuing the story of the incarnation.

As Brown, himself, puts it: "The God who wrote the beginnings with crooked lines also writes the sequence with crooked lines, and some of those lines are our own lives and witness. A God who did not hesitate to use the scheming as well as the noble, the impure as well as the pure, men to whom the world harkened and women upon whom the world frowned - this God continues to work through the same melange. If it is a challenge to recognize in the last part of Matthew's genealogy that totally unknown people were part of the story of Jesus Christ, it may be a greater challenge to recognize that the unknown characters of today are an essential part of the sequence."

Christianity isn't just for the pure, the talented, the good, the humble, and the honest. The story of Jesus Christ was also written and keeps getting written too by the impure, by sinners, by calculating schemers, by the proud, by the dishonest, and by those without worldly talents. Nobody is so bad, so insignificant, so devoid of talent, or so outside the circle of faith, that he or she is outside the story of Christ.

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*Used with permission of the author, Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser. Father Rolheiser is a theologian, teacher, and award-winning author and is currently the President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website-[www.ronrolheiser.com](http://www.ronrolheiser.com).*



## Christmas Flower Offerings

Christmas Flower offerings received by Sunday, December 9 will be published in the Christmas bulletin. Offerings received after that date, will be published in subsequent bulletins.

## Good Samaritan Prayer Group of L.I.

The Good Samaritan Prayer Group of Long Island holds their **meetings every Friday (except the first Friday of the month) at OLL School in Room 16 from 8 PM until 10 PM.**

All are welcome to experience singing, praying and fellowship each evening.

## Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group

The Jesus, King of All Nations Prayer Group meets each **Thursday afternoon** in the **Church**. The meeting is from **3 PM until 4 PM** in **front of the Blessed Sacrament**.

## Adult Faith Formation

*mark your calendars for these upcoming events...*

**MOMS**-Ministry of Mothers Sharing-an opportunity for women to get together to share and nurture each other through the journey of motherhood-beginning January 3.

**Old Testament**-this five week journey will bring us back to our heritage. Come to know more about our roots and traditions through learning, prayer and sharing-beginning January 8.

**Directed Prayer Retreat**-our third annual Directed Prayer Retreat to be held during Lent, from February 3 -9, 2008.

## School News

*save the date...*

### Night at the Races

Our Lady of Lourdes School will present a Night at the Races on Saturday, January 19, 2008 at 7PM – 10PM. Races will be held in the Cafeteria, Child Care will be available in the All-Purpose Room.

“ALL ARE WELCOME”

NOTE: OLL School Families-this is a Mandatory Fundraising Event.

*details to follow...*

## Protecting our Children

The Office for Protection of Children and Young People has published its latest newsletter, Protecting our Children. Copies are available in Our Lady of Lourdes School and at the doors of the Church and through the diocesan web site at [www.drvc.org](http://www.drvc.org).

The Diocese has made great efforts at putting in safeguards and boundaries for our local Church. Learn about them and how you can be part of protecting God's children here at OLL!

## Catholic Daughters of America

The Golden Age Club meets every **Wednesday from 12:30 PM until 2 PM** in the **O'Connell Room at St. Joseph's Church, Babylon.**

Seniors are invited to play cards or bingo and enjoy desserts and friendship with us.

## Wanted:

*Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who have been commissioned by the Diocese of Rockville Centre.*

Good Samaritan Hospital is looking for you to bring Holy Communion to patients. The availability would be a day or any days you are available, according to your schedule.

If interested, please contact Sr. Mary Anna, director of Pastoral Care at 631.376.4103.

## Charismatic Renewal Center

Charismatic Prayer Groups will sponsor an evening of Prayer and Praise on **Monday evening, December 10 at 8 PM in the St. Barnabas Holy Family Chapel, Bellmore.** After a period of Prayer and Praise there will be a presentation on Advent. Giving this presentation will be Fr. Patrick Bonner, M. Div, J.C.L. Father is from Ireland and is currently teaching at Molloy College where he is also the Chaplain. For further information, call Charismatic Prayer Groups at 516.785.0054.

## Harvest Houses

Harvest Houses, Residences for Well-Elders are affordable, gracious living alternatives offering seniors both privacy and companionship, security and quality of life. Every Harvest House is home for eight independent elders who want the fullness of living in a family atmosphere, the continuity of "a home away from home." An opening is now available in the Syosset and Floral Park residences. If you are interested in finding our more information or visiting one of our Harvest Houses, please contact Sister Jeanne A. Brendel, O.P., CSW, Executive Director at 516.496.9796.

## Religion & Rock

Tune into "Religion & Rock" with Msgr. Jim Vlaun on Sunday from 7 AM to 8 AM on WBAB 102.3 FM or 95.3 on the East End of Long Island.

Next Sunday's theme is: **"Giving & Helping Others."** Don't forget to tune in! Visit "Religion & Rock" on the web, [www.religionandrock.com](http://www.religionandrock.com).

Also watch "Good News with Father Jim" on TELE CARE, channel 29, on Mondays and Fridays at 9:45 AM; Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 7:45 PM; Sundays at 8 PM.

# Sharing the Gospel

Today you are with John the Baptist. He is wearing a camel skin coat and has a leather strap around his waist. He shares two grasshoppers and a little wild honey with you. He says, "Turn back to God! The Kingdom of heaven will be here soon." You tell John, "I am very sorry for my sins. I am now obeying God's laws." Then John baptizes you in the Jordan River to make you ready for the Kingdom of heaven.



## Mission for the Week

I pray that people thinking of doing evil will choose God's way instead.

### Puzzle

Help the baby find his way to the priest for his baptism.



### Prayer



Lord,  
 teach me  
 to be truly sorry  
 when I do  
 something wrong.

### Something to Draw



Draw John the Baptist baptizing you in the Jordan River.